



# THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



## Masses & Intentions: May 03 - May 10, 2020

<b>Sunday 03</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 04</b>	<b>Feast of English Martyrs</b> Sr. Anne Robson pcj (RIP)
<b>Tuesday 05</b>	<b>Easter feria</b> Mary Hughes (Birthday) Intentions
<b>Wednesday 06</b>	<b>Easter feria</b> P. B. J. B & Family Intentions
<b>Thursday 07</b>	<b>Easter feria</b> The Manners Family Intentions
<b>Friday 08</b>	<b>Easter feria</b> The McDade Family Intentions
<b>Saturday 09</b>	<b>Easter feria</b> The C & S Families (Thanksgiving)
<b>Sunday 10</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> People of the Parish

### The Shepherd And Guardian Of Our Souls

Today we rejoice in the Lord, our Shepherd, who calls us to himself.

*Believing Christ died – that's history.*

*Believing Christ died for me – that's salvation.*

*This Sunday is also known as the Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocations Sunday and is "World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Gospel Reading will always be from the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter of St. John's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd.*

*The image of Jesus as the Shepherd of the Father's flock is one of the most beautiful images we have of him. He is the Good Shepherd. The sheep belong to him, and he is ready to die for them. Belonging to him entails believing in him, listening to his voice and following him.*

*Please pray for Vocations to Married Life, Diaconate, Priesthood, Religious and Consecrated Life. Please pray also for all our Deacons, Consecrated Women & Men, Religious, Priests and Bishops of our Diocese, of our country and those around the world. Thank you.*

In response to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, and in compliance with the Government regulation the churches will remain **CLOSED** until further notice.

Hope and pray things will get better as soon as possible, when we shall gather for our daily and weekly worship. The Government and our dioceses will direct us accordingly as and when this happens and we shall be guided by them.

In the meanwhile, priests continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis, for your intentions and for any other specific intentions.

Parishioners are also encouraged to take part in Mass online if possible and have 'Spiritual Communion'.

List of a few 'Live Streaming' Churches within Archdiocese of Birmingham and beyond, are available on our parish website. An extended list is also available at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/>

Those who wish to celebrate the *Liturgy of the Hours*, or have access to the Readings at Mass, please visit: <https://universalis.com> for assistance.

[www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) offers reflections (Lectio Divina) as well as reflections / activities for children & family.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for May - (For Deacons):** We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

**RIP:** Please pray for **Bishop Leo McCartie, Fr. Andy Kenney, Fr. Bernard O'Connor OSA, Fr. Antony Conlon, Lucy Barwell, Mary Adams** and all who died in recent times and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**Month of May – Month of Mary:** The Catholic practice of assigning a special devotion to each month goes back to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The best known of these devotions is probably the dedication of May as the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it quickly spread throughout the Western Church, and by the time of Pope Pius IX's declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, it had become universal.

'May Crowning' and other special events in the month of May in honour of Mary, such as public recitation of The Rosary, stem from this time. Sadly, such communal events are rather rare today, but we can take the month of May as an opportunity to renew our own devotion to the Mother of God by praying the Rosary and adding a Marian prayer or two to our daily routine. Pope Francis has recently reminded Catholics of this and strongly encourages to pray the Rosary

Parents, in particular, could encourage Marian devotion in their children, to learn to appreciate the role of The Blessed Virgin played in our salvation through her 'fiat' (*let it be*) - her joyous "Yes" to the Will of God.

**The English Martyrs (May 4):** Today we celebrate the feast of the English Martyrs, and call to mind not only the forty priests, religious and lay men and women canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970, but the further two hundred and forty-two declared 'blessed' and those many unknown Catholics who died defending the faith in a period of around 150 years following the Reformation.

For most of us practising our faith in this country today, the idea of laying down our lives for the supremacy of the Pope, the unity of the Church, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is a remote concept. True the Church here has its struggles - where does it not - but few of us would worry about persecution unto death and it is for this very reason that today's feast is of such importance. It reminds us of the selfless sacrifice made by so many that the faith might live in England through the shedding of their blood, and of the continuing sacrifice made by so many in others in less tolerant areas of the world today.

Much has been written on the sufferings of these martyrs; they often endured trials that are difficult for us to dwell upon today and yet their sacrifice was not in vain. Quoting Tertullian, Pope Paul VI in his homily at the canonisation of the forty martyrs wrote; "*The blood of Christians is the seed that is sown.*" *As it was with the shedding of Christ's own blood, so it is with the sacrificial offering of her Martyrs in union with His: a source of life and of spiritual fecundity for the Church and the entire world.*"

As it was then, so it is today; the sacrifice of the martyrs, united to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, goes far beyond the geographical constraints of nation states and the limits of their own time, to provide a rich source of spiritual life and nourishment upon which the Church can draw in times of peace and travail. (*Graham Hunt OP*)

**On line donations:** Parishioners will be pleased to know that 'on line donations' are possible now: There is a donate button (top right) on the home page of the diocesan website – [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

From these donations which can also be gift aided can be made to any parish via credit or debit card.

Funds will initially be passed to the diocese but will be passed on to each parish as soon as possible.

There are transaction charges levied by the card processing company which amount to 20p + 1.9% of the value of the donation – so for a £10 donation this will amount to £0.39 which will be deducted from the amount we receive.

Please do note therefore that standing order remains the most cost effective way for our parishioners to donate.

**Telephone support:** Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email ([shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com](mailto:shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com)) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

**Rosary:** The Parish Rosary group are continuing to pray the Rosary at 10am on Thursdays in their own homes, but connected spiritually. Please join if you can and would like to.

### **The Regina Caeli**

O Queen of heaven, rejoice! **Alleluia.**

For he whom you did merit to bear, **alleluia.**

Has risen as he said, **alleluia.**

Pray for us to God, **alleluia.**

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, **alleluia.**

**R. For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.**

Let us pray

**O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(N.B. From Easter to Pentecost the 'Regina Caeli' is said in place of the Angelus)*

**The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-10):** In each year of the three-year cycle of readings this fourth Sunday of Easter is designated Good Shepherd Sunday, with readings from the parable given in John 10. In the first two Sundays after Easter the meetings with the Risen Lord are described, but after that the most important truth about the Risen Lord which the Church puts before us is that this Jesus whom we encounter is the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament God is the Shepherd of Israel, and indeed in the neighbouring pastoral nations too the protective deity of the nation is commonly called their 'Shepherd'. As the pastoral ancient world well knew, the duty of shepherds is to care devotedly for the sheep, with no regard to the personal cost to themselves. Ezekiel repeatedly castigates the recent leaders of Israel for their failure to care for the sheep and for managing the flock for their own personal advantage. It is especially striking that in all four gospels the divine title of Shepherd is transferred from God to Jesus himself, at least implying not only that Jesus is the perfect shepherd, but also that he is the incarnation of that divine Shepherd, fulfilling the duties which had hitherto been credited to the God of Israel alone. By his selfless generosity Jesus is the model for all rulers and leaders of nations.

**What does it mean to you to describe Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Who is your special guide in life and why?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

### **PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR RENEWAL IN OUR PARISH**

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come: Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MESSAGE FROM SPUC:** New Northern Ireland Abortion Regulations.

On 25<sup>th</sup> March the London Government published its new framework for legal abortion in Northern Ireland which sweeps away even the few boundaries which the 1967 Act imposed. Some of the worst aspects of this new legislation include:

Abortion on demand for babies up to 12 weeks.

Abortion up to 24 weeks on unspecified "health" grounds – essentially abortion on demand.

Abortion up to and during birth on grounds of disability.

No limit for self-induced abortions. A woman who kills her child while giving birth will not commit a criminal offence.

Doctors who selectively kill a disabled twin or triplet just before or during delivery will not be prosecuted.

Please ask your MP to urge the Government to withdraw these new Northern Ireland regulations which were imposed and lack all legitimacy. Seventy-nine percent of people who took part in the consultation rejected Government Proposals. Abortion Law is a devolved issue. MPs should support the repeal of section 9 of the Northern Ireland Act and allow the Stormont Assembly to deal with this matter.

Please act now. Please 'phone, email or write (only if it is permitted for you under Corona Virus Regulations) to your MP, giving your full name and address and telephone number. Thank you.

**CAFOD's Covid-19 Emergency Appeal:** CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal).

### **PRAYER DURING CORONA-VIRUS PANDEMIC**

God our Father,  
we come to you in our need  
to ask your protection against the Corona virus  
that has claimed lives and has affected so many people.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with  
the studying the nature and cause of this virus  
and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of doctors, nurses,  
medical staff, experts  
and all health care workers –  
that they may minister to the sick with love,  
compassion, and skill.

We pray for all those who have died with Covid - 19  
and for their families and friends.  
May the Lord bring them to the glory of heaven.

We pray for all who are ill from the virus  
that the Lord may heal them soon  
through the ministry of others.

We pray for all who work in any way at this time  
to keep our society functioning –  
those who are involved with producing, selling and delivering  
food,  
those who keep our transport system and utilities going  
and all those in other frontline jobs.

We pray for all who are struggling with isolation, loneliness,  
depression and financial problems.

Give us all the grace to deepen our faith and trust in you O  
Lord, and so support each other in every way we can.

Our Lady, health of the sick.  
St. Raphael the Archangel,  
All holy men and women,

*Pray for us.*

*Pray for us.*

*Pray for us.*

*(With grateful acknowledgement to Corpus Christi Church, Headington, Oxford where this prayer is prayed daily during Mass at 10.00am and at the Eucharistic Adoration at 5.00pm).*